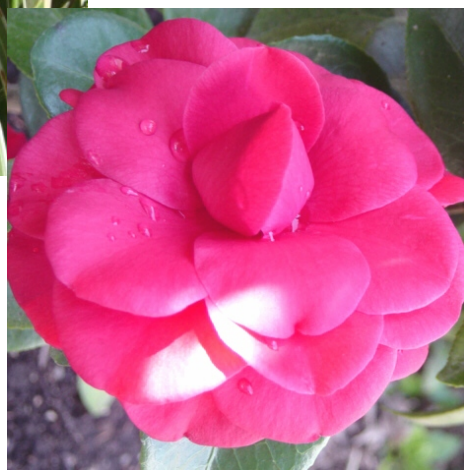
February 13, 2005
Celebrating Valentine's Day

February 21, 2005
Celebrating Sharon's birthday

February 22, 2005
Spring has arrived in
Sharon's garden



Gary's "pet" goldfinches

Dried flowers from the garden

February 2005 Alexis, Sharon, Bev, Betty and Donna creating the decor for the annual UU Auction

March 1, 2005 Sharon & Gary visited the Merced National Wildlife Refuge

There were thousands of geese, ducks, herons, egrets and cranes which migrate here from as far north as the Arctic Circle.

We took a five mile drive around the marshes.

We had to stop for a large herd of dairy cows coming down the road!

March 26, 2005
Alexis, Libby, Brad, Tom, Amanda and Sharon decorating eggs for Easter

March 27, 2005 - The Easter egg hunt in the garden

Sharon, Alexis & Amanda prepared a wonderful buffet

Ivy & Alexis' dessert buffet!

Ken & Viv relaxing
(please note that
Ken has not fallen asleep)

Catherine, Libby, Elizabeth & Amanda
enjoyed the shuffleboard game

Linda tries to negotiate the right-angle-drainpipe-turn

The highlight of each Easter is the dreaded Obstacle Course Easter Egg Race!

Viv attempts to remove her egg from the boat using only a spoon

Gary cursing his way through the course

Sharon catapults her egg over the water hazard

Alexis was the winner!

Tom was the loser!

May 8, 2005
Celebrating Mother's Day with Sharon, Gary, Alexis, Marc, Amanda, Libby & Tom

Cake and presents for Mom

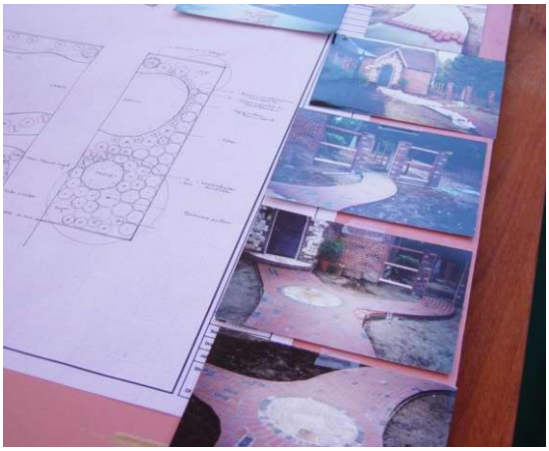
May 9, 2005
An unseasonable deluge of rain and hail in Fresno

Saturday, May 14, 2005
Second Annual
"Home Gardening"
Garden Circuit

Sue Strauss' back yard garden redesigned by Jody Palmer

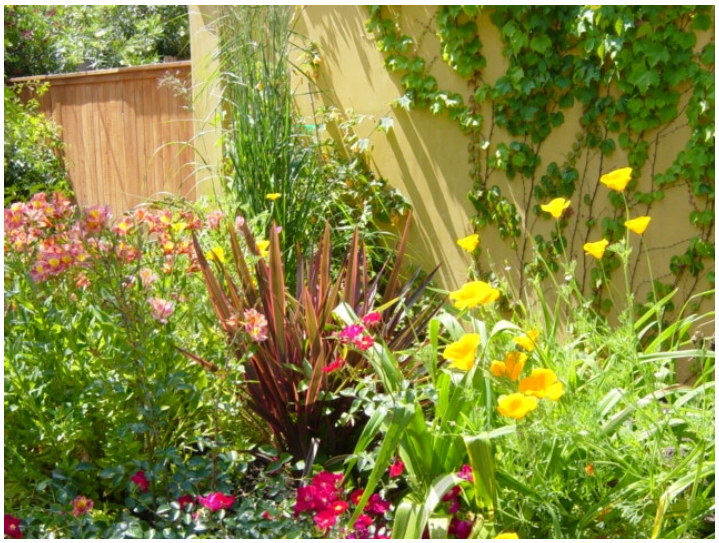
Linda Knight & Betsy Blossom organized the 2005 garden circuit

Debra Garley's English Tudor brick home and newly designed gardens



Jody & Debra discuss the evolving garden design

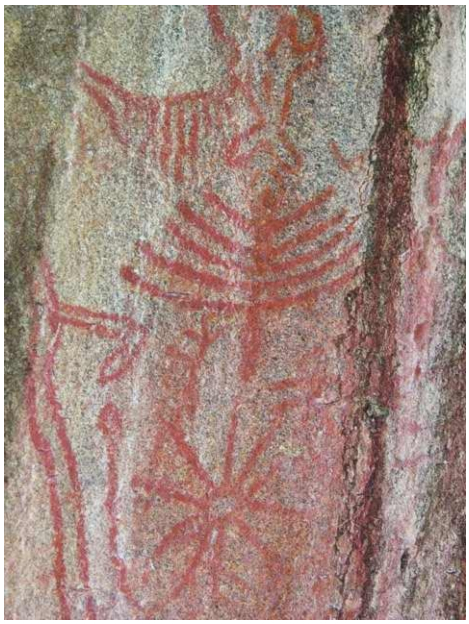
Jody & Hank Palmer's home garden and energy-efficient contemporary adobe home



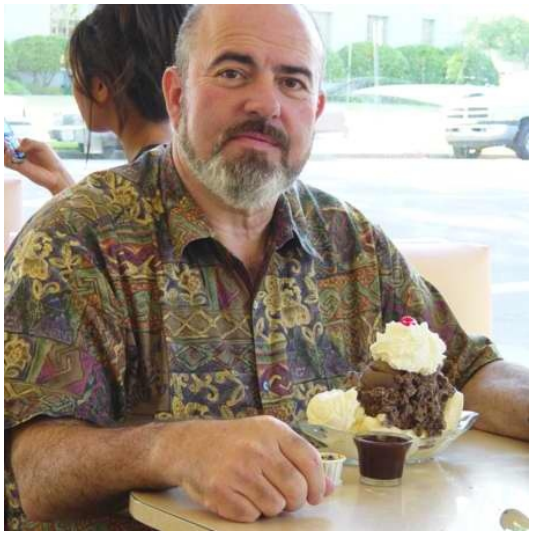
May 19, 2005
Gary & Sharon spent a day visiting the southern end of Sequoia Nat'l Park

Lunch at the Gateway Inn on the raging Kaweah River

Indian petroglyphs at Hospital Rock on the Kaweah River



After Sequoia Park, we stopped in Hanford, home of central California's best ice cream



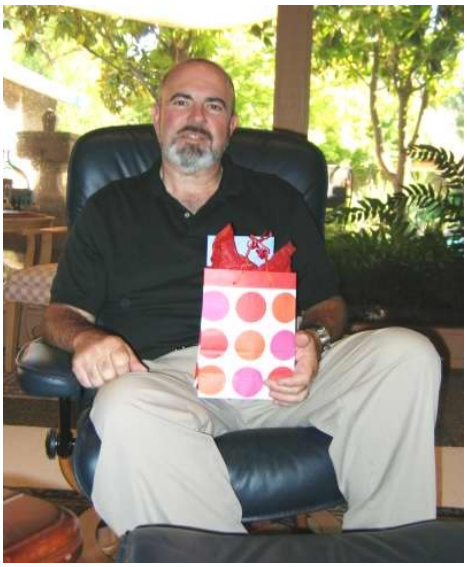
At Hanford, we enjoyed the downtown street market, automobile display and music

May 21, 2005
The Norelma Walker Youth Library presents High Tea with "Beatrix Potter" as portrayed by Linda Spalding to benefit the UUCF Auction

Savory bites, sweet treats and fine tea were prepared by Gerry Hughes and her sister Marie, Jo Fox, Pat Moore, Sharon Rossi and Denise Sciandra

May 31, 2005
Gary, Alexis and Libby rehearsed their songs for the concert on June 4

June 2, 2005
The black pine near the pool had begun lifting the concrete sidewalk, so it was removed

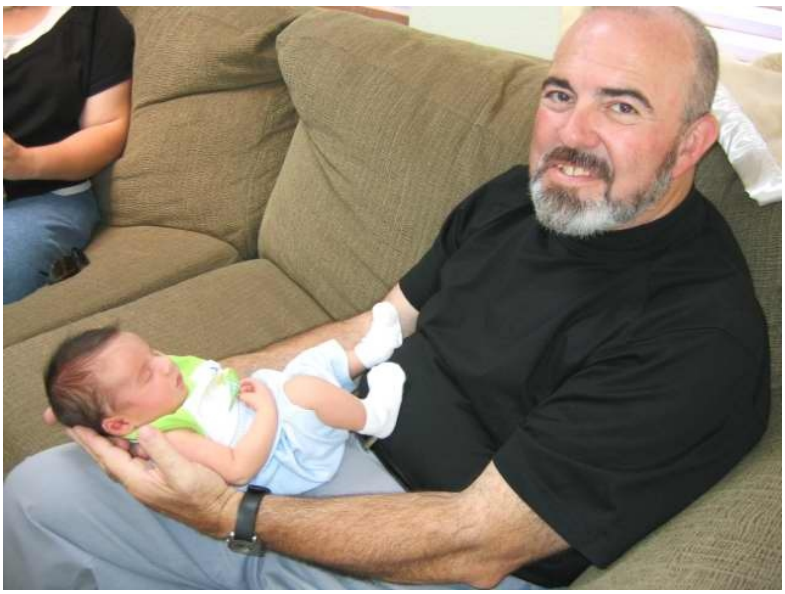


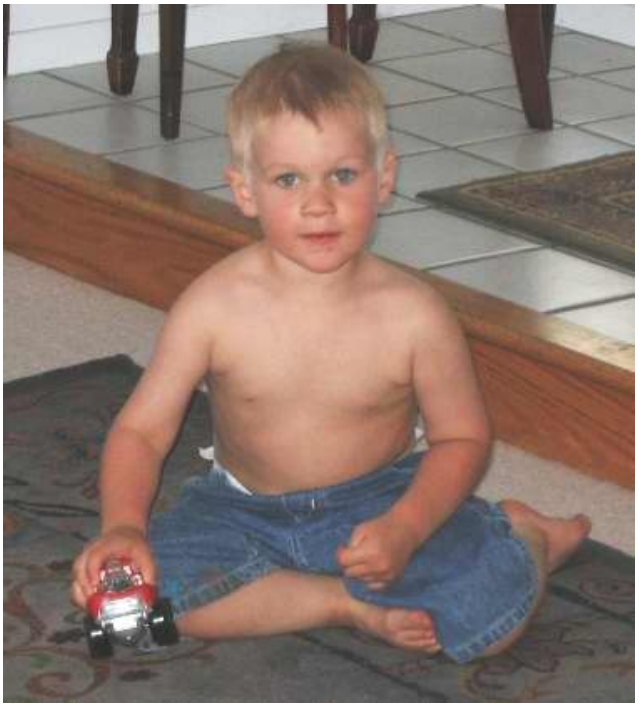
Sunday, June 19
Gary got a bicycle for Father's Day

Friday, June 24
The family visited Erica & Tony, Domenick and two week old baby Cameron in Tracy, CA

Papa Nick and Nonna Bettie and Great Aunt Janet flew to California to meet baby Cameron

June 24 was also Janet's birthday and we celebrated with a Mexican lunch at Chevy's





Baby Cameron watched big brother Domenick drive his truck around the cul-de-sac

July 24, 2005
Amanda & Marc's "pool and patio" wedding engagement party

Amanda & Marc reading the tags on their "Tree of Good Wishes" and looking at their hand-painted "red poppy" champagne glasses

Everyone's enjoying the appetizers and music

Everyone enjoys playing in the pool when it's 105 degrees!

Everyone lining up
for salads and BBQ

Amanda holding Atticus
in his Lance Armstrong
yellow jersey

Mom & Dad toasting Amanda and Marc's wedding engagement

Sharon enjoying Ivy & Alexis' dessert buffet

Jeremy & Kerry offering humorous marriage advice to Amanda and Marc

Libby conquers all in the shuffleball tournament!

Amanda & Marc enjoying gifts and good wishes from family and friends

July 26, 2005
Sharon & Gary spent the day in Sequoia National Park. After admiring a view of Moro Rock, we visited the first of many giant redwood groves.

The Tunnel Tree fell over 70 years ago, and you can drive right through it.

Crescent Meadow was one of two meadows around which we hiked.

Tharp's Log was inhabited for more than 30 summers in the 1800's by a man who grazed his cattle in nearby Log Meadow.

It's still spring at 7000 feet and the beautiful wildflowers filled the meadows.

Log Meadow

August 7, 2005
The U.U. Potpourri featured performances by many talented church members including:
(photography by Marc Rossi & Howard Watkins)

Gary Rossi

Bill Murphy

Chris Eacock
Mike Reilly

Larry Gardner

Larry Bassman
Bill Murphy
Don Gaede
Max Bennet-Parker

Gary & Larry did a Yiddish tune

Libby Bevans

Libby & Tom

Bernadette Seigel & Gary

Bev Gibson, Sharon Rossi and Alexis Rossi brought down the house with “I Feel Pretty”

The Company

Alexis, Gary, Sharon, Marc & Amanda

August 8, 2005
Gary and Sharon hiked to Rancheria Falls above Huntington Lake high in the Sierras

August 13, 2005
“Home Gardening” pot luck social

The “Home Gardening” group shared good company and a bounty of homemade dishes

August 28, 2005
After a 15 hour flight from Los Angeles, Sharon and Gary landed in Guangzhou, China early on Sunday morning. As guests of the Pearl River Piano Company, along with ten other dealers from the U.S.A and Canada, we checked in at the beautiful Dong Fang Hotel, then immediately set off to do some exploring on our own. Our walk to the provincial train station gave us our first look at this vibrant, noisy, friendly and teeming city.

Pick your dinner while it's still swimming!

The view from our taxi ride back to the hotel. Traffic was absolute chaos.

Sunday night at the Gander Restaurant was the first of many spectacular meals. Twenty courses later, Mr. Tong of Pearl River Piano cuts the cake in honor of Al Rich's birthday.

August 29 - In the morning, we visited the Yamaha-Pearl River joint venture factory in Guangzhou.

After the factory tour, we visited the Quing dynasty Baomo Garden where we were treated to another 20+ course lunch.

Sharon, David Rooksby and Gary took a relaxing boat ride through the canals.

The period wax figures in one of the museums were stunning.

These children are catching goldfish!

For dinner, we were taken to a Thai restaurant on Shamian Island. The food was delicious, and we lost count of the number of courses that were served. The Chinese certainly know how to eat well, but the English naming of their restaurants needs a little work.

August 30 - We visited the wood working factory today. Gary is standing in front of beautiful walnut logs that are native to China. Pearl River has acres and acres of wood air drying both in the open and under roof. The wood is then kiln dried before it is transformed into the various parts of a piano.

August 31 - We toured the main facility, the largest piano factory in the world.

Pearl River makes accordions, too!

All the employees have the opportunity for a free music education. The wind ensemble, the ladies chorus and a terrific accordionist performed for all of us in the company concert hall.

Dinner was another outstanding banquet at the gorgeous White Swan Hotel. Sharon and Gary are standing in front of a huge jade carving of a Chinese ship.

September 1 - A tour company picked us up in the morning for a day of sightseeing. To the left, Sharon is standing in front of the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall.

Gary at the Statue of the Five Rams

Second century Tomb of the Nanyue King

The Chen Family Academy

One of the front door gods

An intricate ivory carving

The afternoon was spent shopping on Beijing Road.

Words to live by:
"Impossible Is Nothing"

September 2 - The piano dealers headed home today, while Sharon and Gary took a late morning train from Guangzhou to Hong Kong. That evening we visited the harborside of Kowloon looking across at the lights of Hong Kong Island.

The harborside Avenue Of The Stars, with Jackie Chan's sidewalk star and an outdoor salsa dancing event!

September 3 - Today started with a walk through the Bird Market.

Hundreds of parrots make quite a bit of noise!

Sacks of live crickets and grasshoppers

Men bring their birds to the market to show them off and socialize.

Next, we visited the Flower Market.

After the Flower Market, we walked through the Goldfish Market.

Many buildings have a small altar out front.

Lots of unidentifiable street food is found in China.

Hotels by the hour. Hmmm.

Gary looks slightly dubious over his bowl of noodles and mystery meat.

The Tin Hau Temple near our hotel

Incense coils hanging
from the ceiling

Gary did some hardcore bargaining
at the Jade Market, but
everyone looks happy.

Sharon asked these cute kids to pose,
then got mooned by the little girl at right!

The Eaton Hotel was home
for our ten days in Hong Kong.

September 4 - On a rainy Sunday, we took the train to Sha Tin to visit the Che Kung Temple and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum.

Many offerings are left on the various altars.

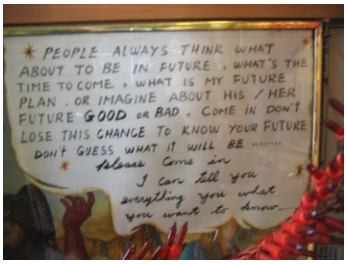
The Hong Kong Heritage Museum

Cantonese Opera display

September 5 - We took the subway to Tsim Tsa Shui for a ride to Hong Kong Island on the famous Star Ferry

Our first stop was the Man Mo Temple on Hollywood Road.

Sharon had her fortune told.



We passed through an antiques market, then walked down several streets through the dried seafood, ginseng, bird's nest and herbal medicine
markets.

Dried haunches of some animal laying right on the concrete

Sea cucumbers drying on the street

Unfortunately, this store had thousands of dried shark fins in sacks

Dried lizards on a stick ... Yum!

After a double-decker tram ride, we saw the contrast between the very upscale Landmark Shopping Center and the ribbon and fabric market of Pottinger Street.

We rode the mid-levels escalator to the Soho district.

Bamboo scaffolding is used everywhere in Hong Kong, even on the tallest buildings.

We made a short stop at the zoo, then walked back to Soho for an Italian dinner at a trendy spot. The evening ended with the nightly light show on the Hong Kong waterfront as seen from Kowloon.

September 6 - Sharon and Gary made the trek to Lantau Island to see the Big Buddha at the Po Lin Monastery.

After a nice lunch at the vegetarian restaurant in the monastery, we made the 90 minute bus and train ride back to Hong Kong.

September 7 - From Hong Kong, we rode a Turbo Jet ferry to Macau. The 16th & 17th century buildings around the Leal Senado are reminiscent of Macau's former status as a colony of Portugal.

Gary sampled the Haagen-Dazs

Sharon sampled the egg tarts, a specialty of Macau

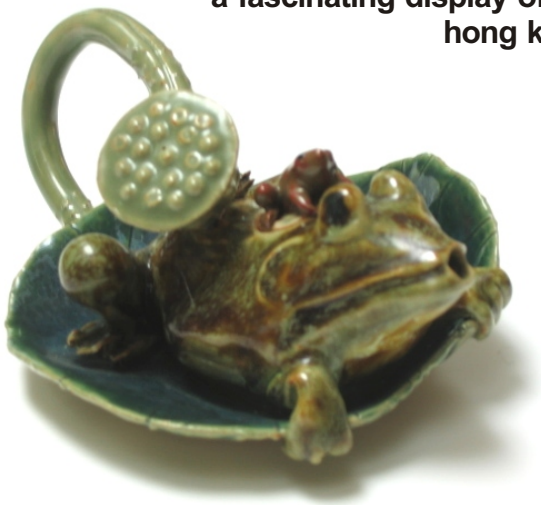
The Ah Ma Temple in Macau

From the temple, we took a taxi to Taipa Village.

Many open air stalls were selling some kind of meat substance, which neither one of us was brave enough to try.

Near the colonial Taipa House Museum we came upon a wedding party enjoying the promenade.

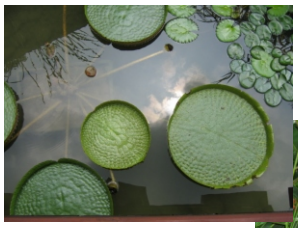
September 8 - We started the day with a visit to Hong Kong Park. The first place we stopped was the Museum of Tea Ware. They had a fascinating display of teapots from this year's hong kong pottery competition.



The first prize winner was "Make tea, not war" featuring teapots of G.W. Bush and Bin Laden with teacups made from disarmed missiles.

After the museum,
we had to have tea!

A wedding party outside the
Museum of Tea Ware



An afternoon rest at the hotel got us ready for a trip to the Jumbo Floating Restaurant in Aberdeen.

September 9 - We rode the Peak Tram to the top for a bird's eye view of Hong Kong. The tram shut down for repairs while we were at The Peak, so we had a harrowing bus ride back down!

A beautiful, huge moth

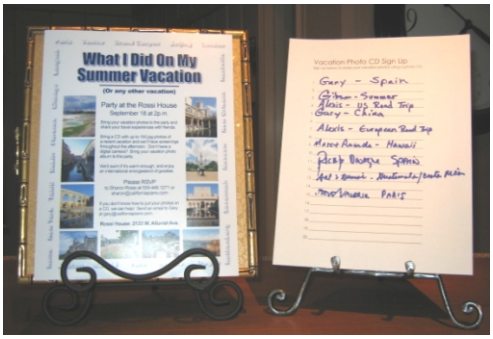
One of our more "British Colonial" moments, high tea at the Peninsula Hotel

September 10 & 11 - We spent both days exploring several museums, including the Hong Kong Museum of Art and the Hong Kong History Museum. Evenings were spent dining well and relaxing.

September 12 - We began our long journey home to California with wonderful memories of our China adventures.

Alexis and
Scarlet relaxing

September 18, 2005
"What I Did On My Summer Vacation" party



Grover shooting a
documentary of
the party

Lots of folks brought photos
of their trips on CDs that
we watched on the television

Alexis prepared
the international
foods dinner
and Ivy made
three flavors of
mousse for
dessert

Amanda & Atticus having fun

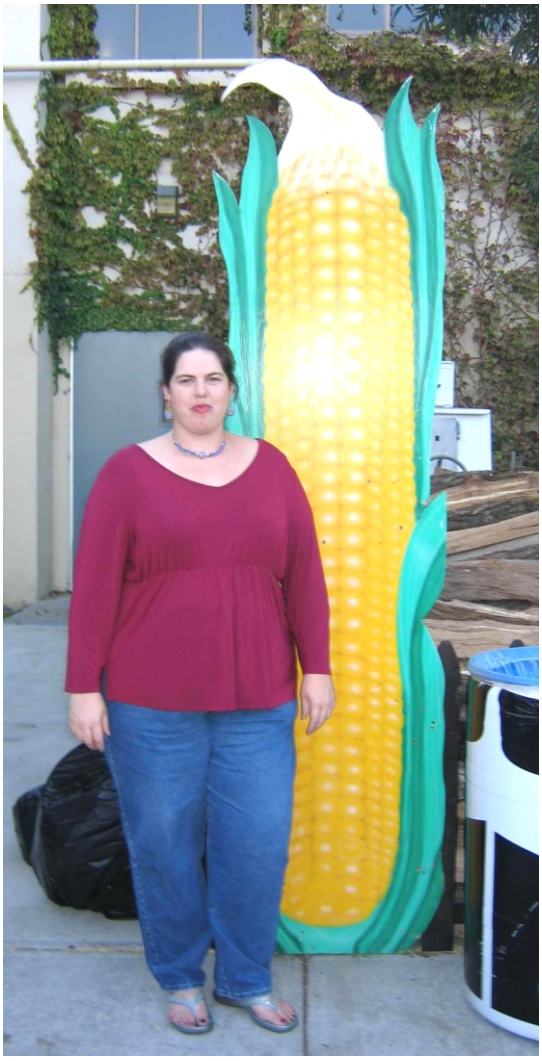
October 1, 2005
Norelma Walker Youth Library Committee
tea honoring
Betty Godfrey

October 5, 2005
Gary, Sharon, Alexis, Ivy & Linda
visited the Big Fresno Fair

We ate a variety of junk food at the fair.

The big winner!

Ivy won three
blue ribbons, one for
her famous lemon
cheesecake.



Fair food is big!

Viv Shinkawa took several blue ribbons for her produce.

We watched these two lambs being born at the fair!

October 19, 2005
Moving day
from 2133 W. Alluvial (above)
to 1371 E. Foxhill (below)

October 29, 2005
Halloween party at Tom & Libby's!

Amanda with her sister Katie and Katie's boyfriend Ande

Libby as a bird in a gilded cage

Sharon, the Queen Mother

Tom, as a modern viking

Alexis, fresh from the grave

Elvis and
the pirate wench

The undead,
the Queen,
and Gary

Sharon & Katie share a laugh

November 6, 2005
Nick & Bettie visited with Gary, Sharon, Alexis, Marc & Amanda in Pacific Grove

November 7, 2005
Nick, Bettie, Gary & Sharon spent a few hours at the Monterey Bay Aquarium

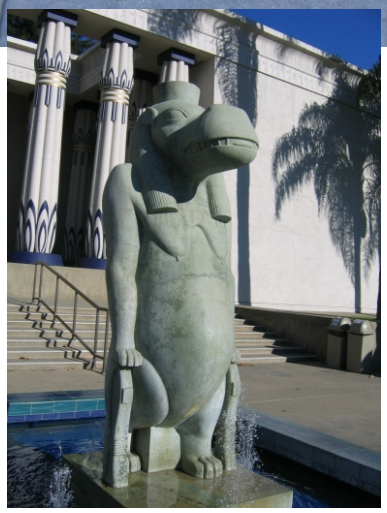
Everyone loves the Moon Jellies exhibit!

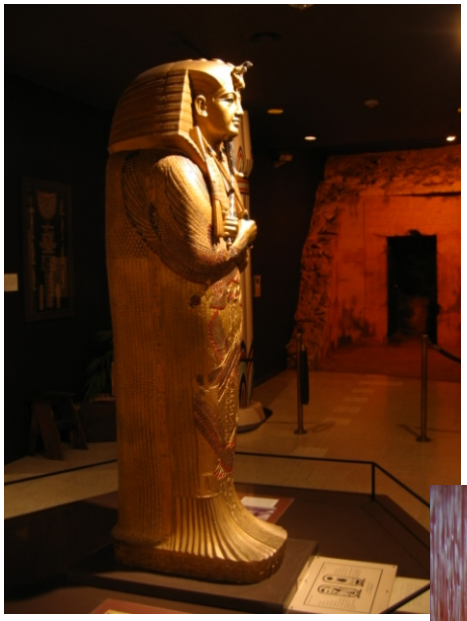
After the Aquarium, we visited the Point Pinos Lighthouse in Pacific Grove

November 14, 2005
We celebrated Marc's 36th birthday a few days early!

November 24, 2005 - After Thanksgiving dinner at Mimi's, Libby, Tom, Catherine, Jim, Marc, Amanda, Alexis, Gary & Sharon had dessert at our new apartment

November 27, 2005
After Gary played for services at the Sunnyvale UU Church, Sharon and Gary visited the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and Planetarium in nearby San Jose





We had a beautiful room at the Hotel Montgomery in downtown San Jose - with a carnival right outside our window!

December 11, 2005
Gary, Sharon & Alexis had dinner at Ivy and Linda's home

Alexis' "Gold Label" Christmas cookies!

Ivy's molten lava chocolate dessert!

December 18, 2005
Marc, Amanda, Alexis, Scarlet, Tom, Libby, Jeremy, Kerry and Atticus joined Sharon and Gary for a holiday celebration.

Atticus was the star of the party!

Scarlet, looking elegant in her reindeer antlers.

December 22, 2005
Joey, Petrina & Joelle Pinto with their new puppy Coconut getting in the Christmas spirit.

December 23, 2005
Christmas in Carmel with Santa arriving in his MINI Cooper.

December 24, 2005
Gary, Sharon & Alexis performed in the Unitarian Universalist Holiday Home Companion variety show on Christmas Eve.

Gary performed solo and accompanied many of the acts throughout the evening.

The "Jingle Belles", Sharon Rossi, Alexis Rossi and Beverly Gibson sang and danced to "Christmas Island."

December 25, 2005 - After Gary played for services at the UU church, the whole family celebrated Christmas at home.

Santa brought mugs for everyone!

We had fun opening gifts. Alexis made lasagna for dinner.

Playing the
Harmonica